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*Helping People
Help the Land*

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January 23, 2006

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-6-12

SUBJECT: LTP – 2006 EQIP ALLOCATION DECISIONS

ACTION DUE BY: JANUARY 31, 2006

Purpose. To announce the FY-2006 EQIP allocation decisions.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2006.

2006 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) allocation decisions have been made and are described in this bulletin and have been entered into Protracts. These funds will be used by field office staff to approve EQIP applications and obligate funds starting as early as the end of the EQIP signup on January 31, 2006.

As in past years Local Work Group priorities remain a primary focus of the EQIP in Minnesota. Every SWCD Boundary will once again receive an allocation. Based on prior year obligations they will receive a minimum initial allocation of between \$50,000 and \$150,000. A listing is found below. These funds will be primarily used to fund local work group priorities.

\$50,000 – Aitkin, Anoka, Cook, Hennepin, Lake, North St. Louis and Ramsey;

\$150,000 – Morrison, Nobles, Renville, Roseau, Stearns, West Polk and Winona;

\$100,000 – All of the remaining SWCD Boundaries not listed in either of the categories above.

In addition, in order to meet NRCS Business Plan activities and PRS goaled items EQIP Financial Assistance (FA) funds will be targeted to Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP) written and applied as well as Conservation Plans for Grazing Land written and Grazing Land with conservation applied. Each ASTC (FO) has been given \$2.2 million of EQIP FA and PRS goaled items related to both CNMP's and Grazing Land and will ensure that these goals, in part with the use of EQIP FA, are met. Each ASTC (FO) will work with their local offices to implement this process.

It is important to note that if a single pool of money is used at the field level, applications must still be funded in ranked order based on their score. You may not skip over one applicant to get to another just to fund a certain type of practice. Separate pools of funding can be set up to fund local work group priorities, CNMP's and grazing land goals. If these pools are used, then funds can be allocated to each pool and applications will be assigned a pool to be funded from. Then applications in each pool will be funded once again based on ranked order.

The ASTC (FO) will decide on the system to use for the field offices within their Area. Guidance will be forthcoming from them in the very near future.

A special American Indian outreach allocation of \$500,000 has been made to fund high priority American Indian applications. Previously in Minnesota Bulletin 300-6-10, field offices were asked to forward all American Indian applications to their respective Area Office at the end of the January 31, 2006 scoring period. Prior to doing this, field offices are asked to select the fund code labeled *American Indian Emphasis State Wide* for these applications. This will enable the State Office to work with the Area Offices to fund high priority applications from this special sub-account.

\$75,000 has also been allocated to applications with new immigrant minority producers. Further guidance will be coming out in the future related to this initiative.

Questions related to the 2006 EQIP allocations should be directed to your respective Area Office and then to Tim Koehler or Sid Cornelius at the State Office.

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

DIST: ASTC (FO)
DC
MN EQIP Team